The Government, in the Xlth plan, is also proposing to launch a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science icons (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public-private partnerships. In addition, another new scheme on Scholarships for Science in Higher Education will be initiated in the Xlth Plan. The scheme targets institution of 10,000 fellowships of Rs. 1,00,000/- per year for bright students in science streams during their B.Sc/M.Sc. courses.

Expenditure by Bose Institute, Kolkata

2215. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that audit observed some wasteful expenditure by certain units like the Bose Institute, Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details of such observations during last two years and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for any irregularity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No wasteful expenditure has been observed by audit in respect of Bose Institute, Kolkata during the last two financial years *i.e.* 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Facilities in National Institute of Oceanography

2216. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade and/or provide more infrastructural, technological and scientific facilities to the National Institute of Oceanography Goa; and

(b) the details of each of infrastructural, technological, scientific and other facilities proposed to be provided to NIO along with their estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has been continuously supporting the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) for up-gradation of their infrastructural, technological and scientific facilities. A major facility to acquire a new Oceanographic Research Vessel at an estimated cost of about Rs 190 crore has already been approved. Besides this, support through various projects is also proposed to be provided under the Eleventh Plan for creation of lab space, scientific equipments and facilities.

Performance of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

†2217. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that performance of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research is on the decline day by day and its laboratories are suffering from shortage of talented scientists;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to bring about extensive changes in CSIR; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL); (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) CSIR as a pro-active organization has always been reviewing its policies and objectives in order to align them with the changes in internal and external setting. Efforts are being made to empower CSIR so as to deepen public-private partnerships in its.laboratories.

†Orignai notice of the questions was recived in Hindi